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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 10, as follows.

Please cancel claims 17 and 18.

Please add new claim 30.

1. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing an absorbent and time release material comprising the steps of:

soaking a fibrous material in water to form a first intermediate;

macerating the first intermediate to form a pulp;

forming said pulp into a block;

drying said block in a controlled atmosphere;

immersing ~~impregnating~~ said dried block in with a preselected substance;

grinding said impregnated block to form a powdered material.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said pulp comprises cloth fibers.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said pulp comprises cellulose fibers.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are dried paper pulp.

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5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are short strand wood fibers.
6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are long strand wood fibers.
7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose fibers are wood fibers from the processing of wood fiber fluff.
8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: paraffin wax, beeswax, wax derived from animal products and wax derived from vegetable products.
9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: petroleum wax, motor oil and grease.
10. (currently amended) The A method according to claim 1, wherein said pulp includes powdered waste material selected from the group consisting of: railway ties, telephone poles, creosote, powdered coal, calcium oxalate-solids, KROFTA™ fines, and or bark.
11. (withdrawn) An absorbent and time release material produced according to the method of claim 1.

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12. (withdrawn) A material according to claim 11 used for suppressing fires.
13. (withdrawn) A material according to claim 11 used for land reclamation.
14. (withdrawn) A material according to claim 11 used for soil enhancement.
15. (withdrawn) A material according to claim 11 used as a traction agent.
16. (withdrawn) A material according to claim 11 used to recover petroleum products resulting from a spill.
17. (cancelled)
18. (cancelled)
19. (withdrawn) An absorbent and time release material manufacture by a method comprising the steps of:
  - soaking a fibrous material in water to form a first intermediate;
  - macerating the first intermediate to form a pulp;
  - forming said pulp into a block;
  - drying said block in a controlled atmosphere;

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impregnating said dried block with a preselected substance;

grinding said impregnated block to form a powdered material.

20. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein said pulp comprises cloth fibers.

21. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein said pulp comprises cellulose fibers.

22. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein said cellulose fibers are dried paper pulp.

23. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein said cellulose fibers are short strand wood fibers.

24. (withdrawn) A method accordingly claim 21, wherein said cellulose fibers are long strand wood fibers.

25. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein said cellulose fibers are wood fibers from the processing of wood fiber fluff.

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26. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: paraffin wax, beeswax, wax derived from animal products and wax derived from vegetable products.

27. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: petroleum wax, motor oil and grease.

28. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein said pulp includes powdered waste material selected from the group consisting of: railway ties, telephone poles, creosote, powdered coal, calcium oxalate-solids, KROFTA™ fines, or bark.

29. (withdrawn) An absorbent and time release material manufactured by a method comprising the steps of:

providing a pulp from a fibrous material;

forming said pulp into a block;

drying said block in a controlled atmosphere;

impregnating said dried block with a preselected substance; and

grinding said impregnated block to form a powdered material

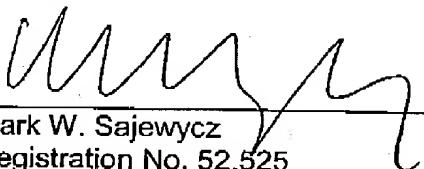
wherein said preselected substance is selected from the group consisting of paraffin wax, beeswax, wax derived from animal products, wax derived from vegetable products and petroleum wax, motor oil and grease.

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30. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said powdered material is pressed into a pellet.

Respectfully submitted,

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